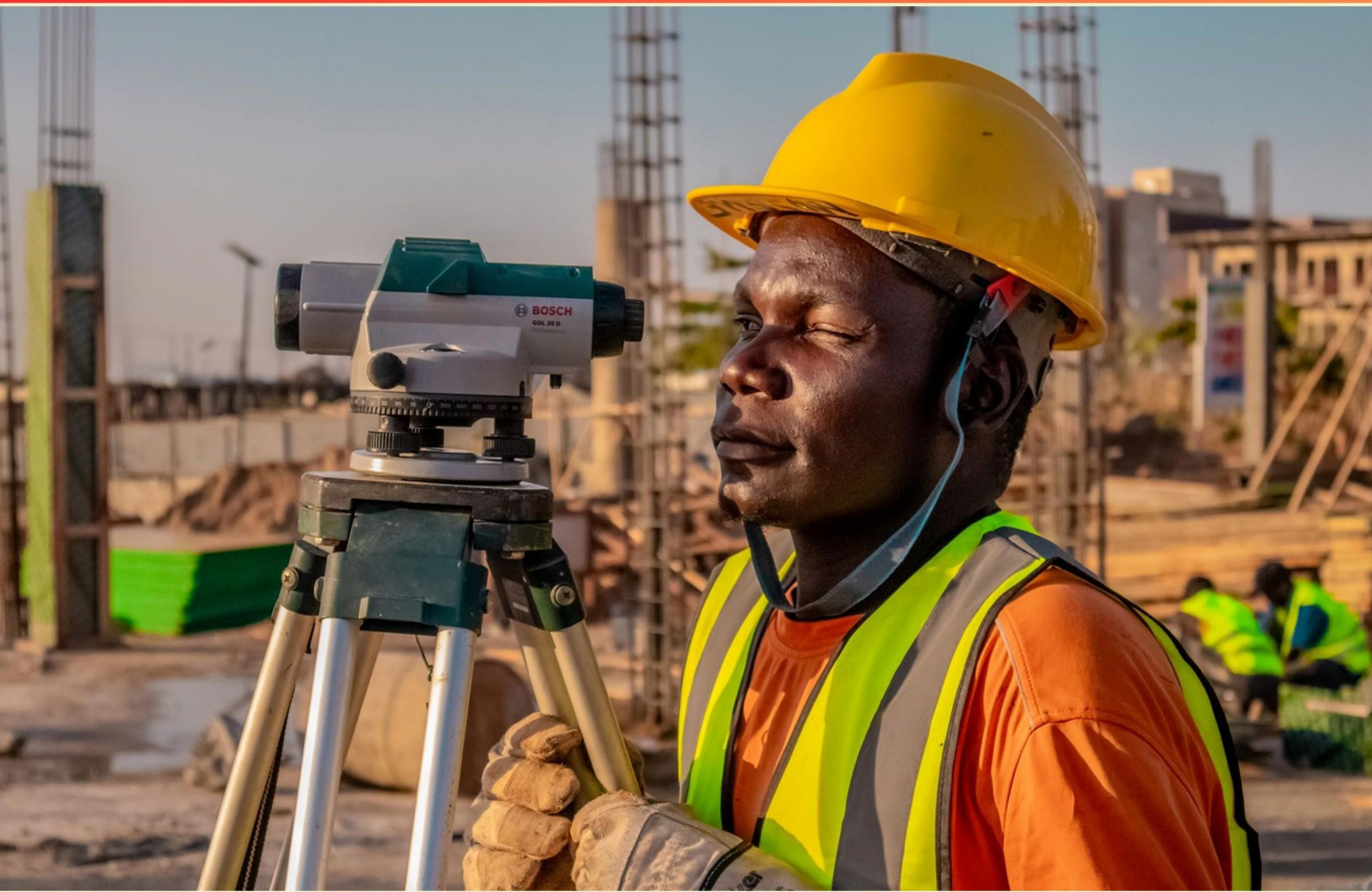


12N TAMMS – EARTHWORKS/ SURVEYING PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is indicated by the revision block on a blueprint index?**
 - A. Project deadlines
 - B. Changes made to the drawing
 - C. Dimensions of the project
 - D. Material specifications
- 2. What does the term "parcelling" refer to in surveying?**
 - A. Mapping land elevations
 - B. Dividing land into smaller plots
 - C. Establishing property value
 - D. Calculating land area
- 3. Which type of roller compacts soil from the bottom up?**
 - A. Steel-wheel roller
 - B. Sheep foot roller
 - C. Smooth Drum Roller
 - D. Vibratory roller
- 4. What is the primary focus of grubbing operations?**
 - A. Excavating soil
 - B. Removing stones
 - C. Uprooting roots and stumps
 - D. Clearing debris
- 5. What is the importance of surveying in construction?**
 - A. To determine soil types
 - B. To assess potential environmental impact
 - C. To determine property boundaries and create site layouts
 - D. To calculate construction costs
- 6. What type of line is medium thickness with dashed segments of equal length?**
 - A. Hidden lines
 - B. Center lines
 - C. Extension lines
 - D. Construction lines

- 7. What does stripping operations consist of in earthworks?**
- A. Removing shallow water
 - B. Disposing of surface boulders
 - C. Removing and disposing of top soil and sod
 - D. Clearing the land
- 8. What is the function of grade stakes in surveying?**
- A. To show elevation levels
 - B. To indicate how much cut or fill is required
 - C. To mark the boundaries of a property
 - D. To set the alignment for the construction
- 9. What does hydrology study in relation to earthworks?**
- A. The composition of soil layers
 - B. The distribution and movement of water
 - C. The methods of soil cultivation
 - D. The types of vegetation in the area
- 10. Which of the following is a major concern when dealing with surface runoff?**
- A. Soil stabilization
 - B. Building structural integrity
 - C. Erosion and drainage
 - D. Material selection for construction

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What is indicated by the revision block on a blueprint index?

- A. Project deadlines
- B. Changes made to the drawing**
- C. Dimensions of the project
- D. Material specifications

The revision block on a blueprint index serves to document any modifications that have been made to the original drawing. This is crucial for maintaining an accurate record of the project's development and ensures all stakeholders are aware of the latest changes. Each revision typically includes a description of the change, the date it was made, and possibly the initials of the person who implemented it. This documentation is essential for tracking the evolution of the project design, helping prevent confusion and ensuring that everyone involved is working from the most current set of plans. It enhances communication among architects, engineers, contractors, and clients, thereby minimizing the potential for errors during construction or project execution. The other options refer to different aspects of a blueprint but are not directly related to the purpose of the revision block. Project deadlines pertain to scheduling, dimensions relate to the size and scale of elements within the design, and material specifications detail what materials should be used—none of which specifically indicate changes made to the drawings.

2. What does the term "parcelling" refer to in surveying?

- A. Mapping land elevations
- B. Dividing land into smaller plots**
- C. Establishing property value
- D. Calculating land area

Parcelling in surveying specifically refers to the process of dividing land into smaller plots or parcels. This often involves determining the boundaries and dimensions of various smaller sections of a larger tract of land. This process can be important for a variety of reasons, such as for development, sale, or management purposes. When land is parceled, it becomes easier to assign ownership, create legal descriptions for each plot, and facilitate transactions. Understanding how to effectively parcel land is a fundamental aspect of land surveying, as it ties closely into property laws and real estate practices. Mapping land elevations, establishing property value, and calculating land area are all relevant tasks within the broader field of surveying but do not specifically define the term "parcelling."

3. Which type of roller compacts soil from the bottom up?

- A. Steel-wheel roller
- B. Sheep foot roller**
- C. Smooth Drum Roller
- D. Vibratory roller

The sheep foot roller is specifically designed to compact soil from the bottom up. Its distinctive design features multiple protruding "feet" or pads that penetrate the soil as the roller is moved over it. When these feet press down into the soil, they create vertical stresses that help to compact the soil layers effectively from the bottom. This method is particularly beneficial for cohesive soils, such as clay, where adequate density and stability are required at deeper layers. In contrast, other types of rollers, such as steel-wheel rollers and smooth drum rollers, primarily apply weight and pressure to the surface of the soil, leading to surface compaction rather than deeper layer consolidation. Vibratory rollers use a combination of vibration and weight, which can enhance surface compaction but may not effectively achieve the same bottom-up compaction as the sheep foot roller. Thus, the sheep foot roller is the ideal choice for achieving thorough compaction in a bottom-up manner, making it particularly effective in specialized applications where deep soil density is crucial.

4. What is the primary focus of grubbing operations?

- A. Excavating soil
- B. Removing stones
- C. Uprooting roots and stumps**
- D. Clearing debris

Grubbing operations primarily focus on uprooting roots and stumps from the ground. This process is essential in the preparation of land for construction, agriculture, or landscaping. Removing roots and stumps ensures that the area is cleared of obstructions that could interfere with subsequent activities such as grading, paving, or planting. Proper grubbing is vital for stabilizing the soil and preventing future issues with root decay or sinkholes, which can occur if remnants are left in the ground. This operation is a critical step in ensuring that the land is thoroughly prepared for its intended use, making the removal of roots and stumps the central task of grubbing.

5. What is the importance of surveying in construction?

- A. To determine soil types
- B. To assess potential environmental impact
- C. To determine property boundaries and create site layouts**
- D. To calculate construction costs

Surveying plays a critical role in construction, primarily in determining property boundaries and creating site layouts. This process involves measuring distances, angles, and elevations to ensure that the construction project is properly aligned and that structures are built within the legal property lines. Accurate surveying helps identify the precise location of buildings, roads, and other infrastructure elements, which is essential for compliance with zoning laws and regulations. Establishing boundaries is crucial not only to avoid disputes with neighboring property owners but also to support effective land use planning and project design. Additionally, having a clear and accurate site layout aids in planning various aspects of the construction process, such as logistics, resource allocation, and adherence to safety standards. While determining soil types, assessing potential environmental impacts, and calculating construction costs are important considerations in the overall planning and construction process, they are secondary to the foundational need for accurate site layouts and boundary determinations that surveying provides.

6. What type of line is medium thickness with dashed segments of equal length?

- A. Hidden lines**
- B. Center lines
- C. Extension lines
- D. Construction lines

The description of a medium thickness line with dashed segments of equal length aligns with the definition of hidden lines. Hidden lines are typically used in technical drawings to represent edges and outlines that are not visible from the current viewpoint. The consistent length of the dashed segments is a key characteristic of hidden lines, making them distinguishable from other types of lines used in drafting. In contrast, center lines are usually represented as alternating long and short dashes and are used to indicate the center of circles and arcs, while extension lines are employed to show the limits of dimensions and are typically solid rather than dashed. Construction lines, on the other hand, are often very light and are used as guides for laying out other elements of the drawing, rather than defined structures like lines with consistent dash patterns. Therefore, the characteristics of medium thickness with dashed segments of equal length uniquely identify it as a hidden line.

7. What does stripping operations consist of in earthworks?

- A. Removing shallow water
- B. Disposing of surface boulders
- C. Removing and disposing of top soil and sod**
- D. Clearing the land

Stripping operations in earthworks primarily involve the removal and disposal of topsoil and sod. This process is crucial for preparing a site for construction or other types of land disturbance, ensuring that the top layer of soil, which is rich in nutrients and often contains vegetation, is cleared away. This step is necessary for several reasons; it prevents contamination of the topsoil, allows for proper grading and shaping of the earth, and helps to mitigate erosion during later stages of construction. By removing topsoil and sod, engineers and contractors can establish a stable base for laying foundations, roads, or other structures. This operation sets the stage for additional earthmoving activities and ensures that the land is properly prepared to support any future developments.

8. What is the function of grade stakes in surveying?

- A. To show elevation levels
- B. To indicate how much cut or fill is required**
- C. To mark the boundaries of a property
- D. To set the alignment for the construction

The function of grade stakes in surveying primarily relates to indicating how much cut or fill is required for a construction project. Grade stakes are typically placed at specific points throughout a site to provide reference elevations based on the design plans. This information is crucial for construction crews, as it clarifies the necessary adjustments to be made to the existing grade. When surveyors place these stakes, they usually indicate the final desired elevation or slope of the land. If the ground level needs to be lowered (cut) or raised (fill), the grade stakes will visually represent this need, guiding the earthmoving equipment on how much material should be removed or added. This ensures that the site can be sculpted to meet the design specifications, which is essential for proper drainage, structure placement, and overall project feasibility. Each stake carries specific information regarding the elevation difference from the existing grade to the desired grade, allowing surveyors and contractors to execute grading work efficiently and accurately.

9. What does hydrology study in relation to earthworks?

- A. The composition of soil layers
- B. The distribution and movement of water**
- C. The methods of soil cultivation
- D. The types of vegetation in the area

Hydrology is a field of study that focuses on the distribution, movement, and properties of water in the Earth's atmosphere and on its surface. In relation to earthworks, understanding how water interacts with soil and landforms is crucial for several reasons, such as managing erosion, optimizing drainage systems, and ensuring the stability of construction projects. The knowledge gained from hydrology directly influences decisions around the placement and design of earthworks, including the construction of roads, embankments, and drainage systems. By studying the patterns of water flow and how it saturates or erodes soil, professionals in earthworks can develop methods to mitigate potential problems that arise from water accumulation or runoff. Therefore, the focus on the distribution and movement of water is key to effective earthwork planning and execution, making it fundamentally important for environmental management and civil engineering projects.

10. Which of the following is a major concern when dealing with surface runoff?

- A. Soil stabilization
- B. Building structural integrity
- C. Erosion and drainage**
- D. Material selection for construction

Surface runoff presents significant challenges in terms of erosion and drainage management. When precipitation falls, it can lead to excess water moving over the land surface rather than being absorbed into the ground. This process can cause soil erosion as the flowing water displaces soil particles, which can lead to the degradation of land and natural habitats. Proper drainage is also crucial in managing surface runoff effectively. Without proper drainage systems in place, water can pool in unwanted areas, leading to flooding and damage to infrastructure. Managing these elements is essential not only to protect the environment but also to maintain the functionality of civil engineering projects, including roads and buildings. The impacts of uncontrolled runoff can have lasting effects, making the prevention of erosion and effective drainage the primary concerns when dealing with surface runoff. While soil stabilization, structural integrity, and material selection are important in their own rights, they are more related to the broader aspects of construction and environmental management rather than directly addressing the specific issues posed by surface runoff.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://12ntammsearthworkssurveying.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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